

REMARKS

In complete response to the outstanding Official Action of December 4, 2002, on the above-identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the needle mounting hole and the annular passage are both concentrically formed in the same device, the spinnerette body. Support for this amendment may be found in Figure 2 and Figure 3, where it is clearly illustrated that both the annular passage (153) and the needle mounting hole (111) are formed in the spinnerette body (110). Further support for this amendment may be found in the Specification on Page 7, Lines 13 through 17 :

"Further, since needle 130 is securely fixed to the spinnerette body into mounting hole 111, alignment of the needle concentrically within upper and lower annular passages 153 and 154 is assured and thus laborious and intricate alignment processes are obviated, thereby further reducing turnaround time."

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As the result of such rejections, the following amendments have been.

Claim 5 has been canceled.

Claim 6 has been amended to delete the element "a" and to insert therefore -- said -- . This amendment identifies *the bore forming fluid passage* of line 3 as being the same as *the bore forming fluid passage* that is recited in line 6 of claim 1.

Claim 7 has not been amended, since the amendment to claim 6 renders this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Moore, Sr. '512, Kinhead '035, and Coplan '877. Applicant respectfully contends that the present invention is not anticipated by Moore, Sr. '512, Kinhead '035, or Coplan '877.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to introduce the limitation that the needle mounting hole and the annular passage are both concentrically formed in the same device, the spinnerette body. As this new limitation is not found in either Moore, Sr. '512, Kinhead '035, or Coplan '877, this amendment renders such rejections moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore, Sr. '512 in view of Ogata '571. Applicant respectfully contends that the present invention is not unpatentable over Moore, Sr. '512 in view of Ogata '571.

Applicant has amended claim 1 (to which claim 10 is ultimately dependent) to introduce the limitation that the needle mounting hole and the annular passage are both concentrically formed in the same device, the

spinnerette body. As this new limitation is not found in Ogata '571, nor would one of ordinary skill in the art find it obvious in light of Ogata '571, this amendment renders such rejection moot.

DOUBLE PATENTING:

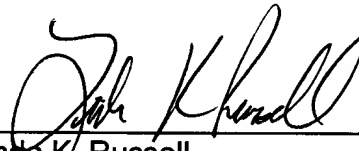
A terminal disclaimer has been filed coincident with this response. Such terminal disclaimer overcomes the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Hence it is submitted that one skilled in the art would have neither sufficient motivation nor guidance from the combined teachings of the art of record to obtain the present invention. This ground of rejection is believed to be unsustainable and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone call would expedite prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,




Linda K. Russell
Registration No. 34,918

Date: May 30, 2003
Air Liquide
2700 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1800
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 624-8956 Phone – (713) 624-8950 Fax

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 30th day of May, 2003.


Julie Turner